THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a)to(c) No, Sir. The development work on Akash missile system has just been completed. The system is ready for User trails after which it will enter the production and induction phase.

Downsizing the Indian Army

†1526. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to downsize the Army, inview of the suggestions of some defence experts;

(b) to what extent it is appropriate to downsize the army, in view of the entry to terrorists from Pakistan and Bangladesh and the military preparedness of China and Pakistan;

(c) whether Government would strengthen the Navy and Air Force, without changing the military set-up, keeping in view the country's requirements; and

(d) by when the final decision in this regard would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Ministry of Defence at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Strengthening of Air Force and Navy by up-gradation of weapon systems and improvements of force structure is an ongoing process.

Resignation by Doctors and Engineers in Defence Forces

1527. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of doctors and engineers in the armed forces want to quit service;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.